WITCHES' TALES

JAN 1973

60¢

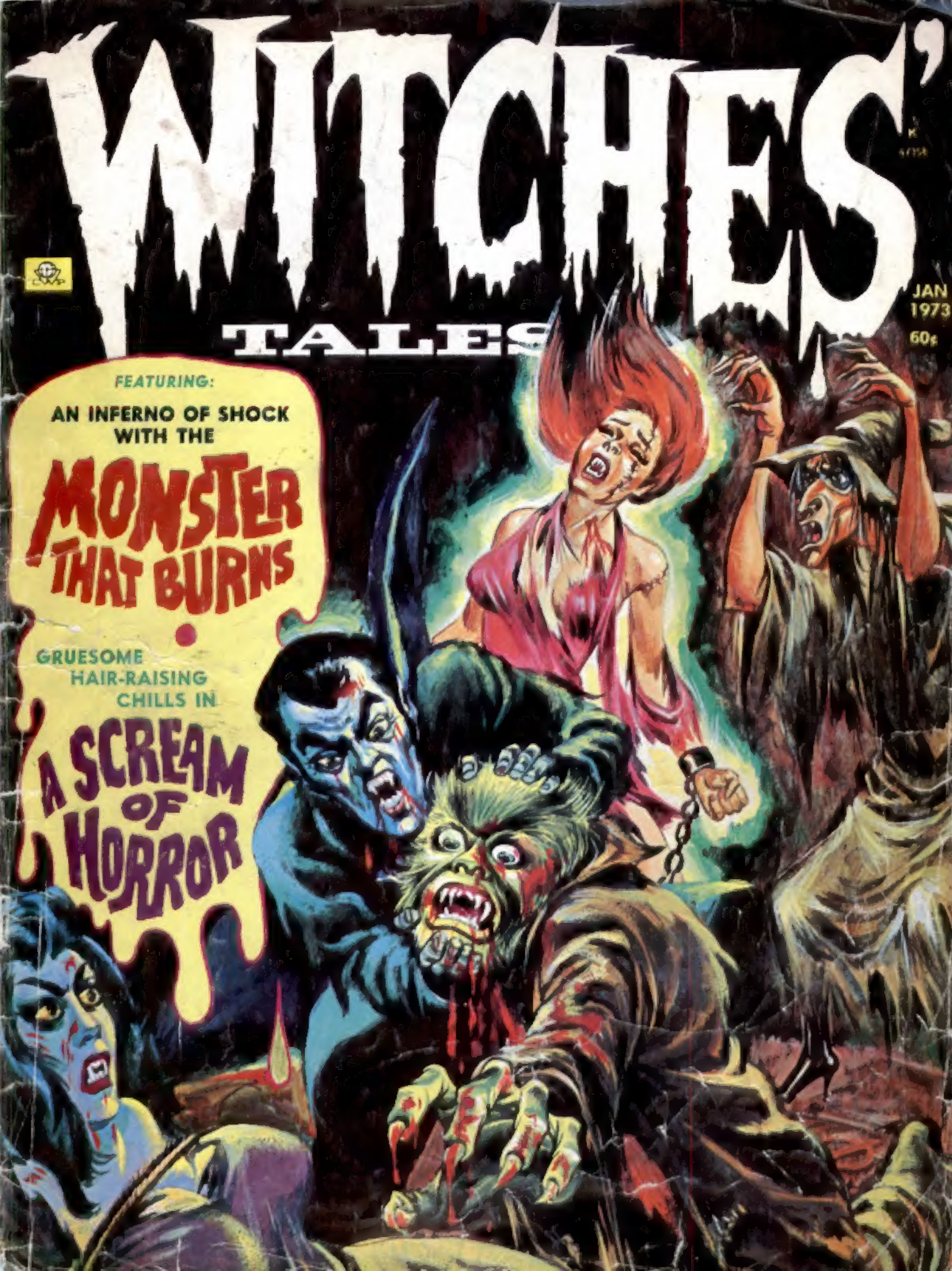
FEATURING:

AN INFERNO OF SHOCK WITH THE

MONSTER THAT BURNS

GRUESOME HAIR-RAISING CHILLS IN

A SCREAM OF HORROR



IS YOUR HAIR GROWING OR GOING?

Stand in front of a mirror. Take a long hard look at the top of your head. Do you have as much hair as one year ago? Do you see any new hair growth?

If your answer is no, it is important that you take steps today to save the hair you now have. If you act now, you may be able to reverse the trend on your head. You may be able to grow new hair faster than it is falling out. Doesn't that make sense to you? Wouldn't you like to look in the mirror a year from now and see more hair on your head than you see now? Why lose your hair if you don't have to?

CAN YOU SAVE YOUR HAIR?

Every year thousands of men and women go bald — needlessly — because of a scalp infection. This scalp infection is called seborrhea. Doctors say that three germ organisms cause seborrhea: staphylaccocus albus, pityrasporum ovale, and microbacillus. These germs attack the sebacious glands and the hair follicles themselves. If not checked, permament damage is done. The hair follicles atrophy, lose their ability to produce new hairs. The result: premature baldness.

You can easily tell if you are a victim of seborrhea. If you have itchy scalp, dandruff, hair loss, very dry or oily scalp, the chances are that you have seborrhea. Neglect these symptoms and you invite baldness.

Treat your scalp to Ward's Formula. This amazing scalp medicine quickly controls seborrhea and stops the hair loss it causes.

Here's the Proof!

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days my hair has stopped falling out
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks' time—no dandruff! *W. T. W., Portola, Cal.*

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of cases of baldness and excessive hair loss, for which neither the Ward treatment nor any other treatment is effective.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

In seconds, Ward's Formula kills the three parasitic germ organisms retarding normal hair growth. This swift germicidal action has been proven in scientific tests by a world-famous testing laboratory (copy of laboratory report sent on request). Ward's removes infectious dandruff, stops scalp itch, brings hair-nourishing blood to the scalp, tends to normalize very dry or oily scalp. In brief Ward's Formula corrects the ugly symptoms of seborrhea, stops the hair loss it causes. Ward's Formula has been tried by more than 550,000 men and women on our famous Double-Your-Money-Back Guarantee. Only 1.9% of these men and women were not helped by Ward's and asked for their double refund. This is truly an amazing performance.

Why not join the men and women who have successfully ended their troubles? Treat your scalp with Ward's Formula. *Try it at our risk.* In only 10 days you must see and feel the marked improvement in your scalp and hair. Your dandruff must be gone. Your scalp itch must stop. Your hair must look thicker, more attractive, and alive. Your excessive hair loss must stop. You must be completely satisfied—in only 10 days—with the improved condition of your scalp and hair, or simply return the unused portion for Double Your Money Back. So why delay? Delay may cost your hair.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc., 19 West 44 Street, N. Y. 36, N. Y. © 1963

Doctors and hospitals can obtain professional samples of Ward's Formula on written request.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc. Dept. 14736
19 West 44 Street, New York, N. Y. 10036

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I must be completely satisfied in only 10 days or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State ..... Zip .....

☐ Enclosed find $2, send postpaid (check, cash, money order)
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman $2 plus 76 cents in postal charges (save the 76 cents by enclosing $2)
☐ Send triple size for $5. You save $1.

Canadian, foreign, add 50 cents — No C.O.D.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

WITCHES' TALES

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TO VERY FEW IS IT GIVEN TO PROBE INTO THE BLACK RECESSES OF THE SPIRIT WORLD... TO LEARN THE CHILLING SECRETS BEHIND YAWNING GRAVES! TO LEARN IS TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE DAMNED...

SATAN'S Pit of Evil

OH, SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, RISE AND WALK AMONG US, AGAIN SO WE MAY LEARN WHAT LIES BENEATH YOUR TOMBS!
FRED IS OUTDOING HIMSELF TONIGHT!!
DO YOU KNOW I ALMOST FOUND MYSELF BELIEVING WHAT I WAS SAYING!
TAKE IT EASY, FRED! REMEMBER, WE'RE ONLY HERE TO ENJOY OURSELVES!
SUDDENLY, THE LAUGHTER STOPS AS A MYSTERIOUS MAN ENTERS THE ROOM...
PARDON ME, BUT MY NAME IS JONES AND I WAS HOPING YOU WERE ACCEPTING NEW MEMBERS INTO YOUR SOCIETY!
I--I--WE WEREN'T CONSIDERING ANY NEW--
FOR MY INITIATION INTO THE SOCIETY, I COULD RAISE THE WANDERING SPIRIT OF A DEAD SOUL...!
THAT'S REALLY VERY FUNNY, MR. JONES! YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN RAISE THE DEAD! HA! HA! HA!
THE RAUCOUS LAUGHTER OF THE DISBELIEVERS CONTINUES, BUT AS THE MAN SPEAKS, THE LAUGHTER BECOMES HOLLOW AND STRAINED... ALMOST FEARFUL...
YOU LAUGH, MY FRIENDS, BUT RECENTLY A MAN SCOFFED WHEN I FINISHED MY WORK...

--THE SCOFFER WAS FOUND DEAD IN HIS CHAIR-- STARING HORRIBLY AT NOTHING!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE LIGHTS?
TURN THE LIGHTS ON!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
WITHOUT WARNING THE BLACKNESS IS BROKEN BY A GHASTLY DECAYING BODY BEARING THE MARK OF THE GRAVE...
AHH, YOU HAVE COME FROM THE BLACK PIT OF DEATH TO PROVE MY POWER!
TH-THE LIGHT WORKS!
WH...!
NO-O-!
THE RETURNING LIGHT REVEALS A DREADFUL SIGHT... FOR THE MAN WHO HAD SCORNED THE STRANGE INTRUDER SITS LIFELESS IN HIS CHAIR...
BEHOLD, GENTS-- THE FRUITS OF DISBELIEF!
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN? WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
I-I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

COMPELLED BY A FORCE WHICH CANNOT BE EXPLAINED, THE TERRIFIED MEN TURN TO THE SMILING STRANGER FOR HELP, SETTING THEIR FEET ON A PATH FROM WHICH THERE IS NO RETURN!

ON A SHORT WHILE, THE AIR IS MADE FOUL BY A WEIRD PROCESSION

HURRY! IT WILL SOON BE DAYLIGHT!
HERE THE NIGHT IS ENDLESS! YOU WILL COVER THE GRAVE WHILE I SPEAK!
SPIRITS OF THE WORLD OF EVIL, LIFT THE SOUL OF THIS MAN OUT OF HIS LIFELESS BODY AND CARRY IT TO THE LAND OF ETERNAL DAMNATION!
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANY LONGER! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!
SO AM I! I WANT NO PART OF THIS!
STOP!! YOU WILL GO NO FURTHER!
LEGS FREEZE IN RIGID TERROR AS THE VOICE OF THE STRANGER ORDERS THEM TO HALT...
THERE IS NO TURNING BACK!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO US? WHAT POWER DO YOU HAVE?
MY LEGS WON'T MOVE!

AS IF IN ANSWER, RUSTLING NOISES ARE HEARD FROM THE GRAVES AS PHANTOM FIGURES APPEAR...
YOU WISH TO LEARN OUR SECRETS? NOW JOIN US IN OUR GRAVES!
C-O-M-E! C-O-M-E TO US!
NO! NO! AARRGH!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE! C-O-M-E!
HURRY, MY PRETTIES! TAKE THEM WITH YOU TO YOUR HOMES!
LET ME GO! AH-H!
UGH-H!
LIKE FLIES TRAPPED IN A GIANT SPIDER WEB, THE DOOMED MEN ARE DRAGGED TO THEIR DEATHS...
YOU CAN'T... AAHRRGH!
NO!
TH-THEY DISAPPEARED INTO THE GRAVES!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US NOW?
I--I SMELL SOMETHING IN THE AIR!
IT'S THE SMELL OF BRIMSTONE!

WHO ARE YOU? TELL US!
IT IS TIME THAT YOU KNEW MY IDENTITY!

I CALL MYSELF MR. JONES... BUT I HAVE ANOTHER AND FAR MORE FAMOUS NAME -- I AM --

A SUDDEN BURST OF FLAME INTRUDES UPON THE BLACKNESS AND THE FIGURE OF MR. JONES GLOWS WITH THE LIGHT OF PURE EVIL AND MALICE!
SATAN THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS!

...AND NOW YOU MUST BECOME MY DISCIPLES, NEW MEMBERS IN THE LEAGUE OF THE DAMNED!

HA! HA! NOW IT IS I WHO IS HAVING THE FUN!! YOU SCOFFED AT THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD -- AND NOW YOU WILL WISH YOU WERE AMONG THEM!

LET THOSE WHO WISH TO SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF THE OTHER WORLD, TAKE HEED BEFORE THEY BEGIN -- FOR THEREIN LIES WILD TERROR AND HORRIBLE DEATH!
DANCE, MY FRIENDS, DANCE FOR YOUR MASTER! HA! HA!
THE END

A SCREAM OF HORROR
THE MAN RAN FOR HIS LIFE -- AS HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN ALL HIS LIFE...
ALLEY WAY FORKS HERE... PUFF... PUFF... I'LL TAKE THE ONE ON MY RIGHT! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!
NEXT TIME I CASE A JOINT, I'LL MAKE SURE I HAVE TWO EXITS INSTEAD OF ONE! I ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT!

AND THEN THE MAN LOOKED IN...
WHA...? CRAZY LIGHTS! SOMETHING STRANGE GOING ON DOWN THERE!
TWO MORE VOLT INCREASES -- AND I'LL KNOW! I MUST REMEMBER TO KEEP THE INDUCTION CURRENT NON-FLUCTUATING!
SQUEAK... SQUEAK!
I-I'VE DONE IT! THE GORILLA HAS CHANGED INTO THE MOUSE... THOUGH THE BODY STRUCTURE HAS BEEN MAINTAINED!
THE MOUSE IS DEAD... BUT ITS MIND LIVES ON IN AN ALIEN HOST...THAT OF THE GORILLA'S BODY! I'VE CONQUERED DEATH! I'VE DISCOVERED REINCARNATION
WHILE OUTSIDE...
I--I'M SEEING THINGS! B-BUT I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES... REINCARNATION!
HE PUT ONE MIND INTO THE BODY OF ANOTHER! THAT MEANS ANYONE WHO'S OLD CAN LIVE ON IN ANOTHER PERSON! I GOT TO THINK... THINK!
12

LATER THAT NIGHT, IN A CHEAP HOTEL ROOM, THE MAN THOUGHT...
ESCAPE... ESCAPE...
YEAH...! THAT'S IT! ESCAPE! THE PERFECT SET UP! NO ONE'LL EVER TOUCH ME!
A FEW DAYS LATER...
I DIDN'T ASK FOR A JANITOR, BUT I CAN USE YOU!
OKAY! I WILL TAKE CARE OF THIS PLACE FOR YOU!
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT HE DID! AND DAYS AFTERWARDS...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I TOLD YOU NEVER TO OPEN THIS DOOR!
OH.. SORRY, DOC.. I JUST WANTED TO SCRUB THE FLOORS...
... AND LOOK AT THE MACHINERY!
AND WHILE THE SCIENTIST WORKED, COORDINATING AND RE-CHECKING HIS FINDINGS, THE MAN ACTED...
THE BIGGEST HAUL OF MY LIFE! AND NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS WALK RIGHT IN WITHOUT EVER WORRYIN' AGAIN!
IT'S A STICK UP! OPEN THE VAULT! QUICK!
Y-YOU'RE INSANE! YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!
13

I'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE! OKAY-- GET GOIN'! YOU OTHERS--LINE UP BY THE WALL!
TH-THE POLICE WILL GET YOU!
P-PLEASE LET US GO! WE WON'T TRY TO STOP YOU!
I KNOW YOU WON'T, BECAUSE...
--YOU AND YOUR PALS WON'T BE AROUND NO MORE!
SECONDS LATER...
YEAH, SARGE! A '5! CHEVVIE-- BLUE SEDAN! PLATE NUMBER 2D677
TWO HOURS LATER...
SAFE AND SOUND! THEY'LL BE ON MY TRAIL ANY MOMENT, BUT--AT LEAST THE DOUGH'S WHERE I WANT IT!
AND INSIDE THE LAB SHORTLY AFTER...
GET OUT! YOU WERE NEVER TO COME HERE! EH? WHAT'S THAT YOU HAVE?
A GUN, DOC! IT SHOOTS PEOPLE!

--LIKE THIS!
YOU FOOL! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
I'M TAKING OVER, DOC! WHEN THE COPS TRACE ME HERE, I'LL BE LONG DEAD AN' GONE!
N-NO! YOU CAN'T! LISTEN TO ME... LISTEN!
WHAT BETTER HIDEOUT THAN IN THE FUTURE, DOC? WHAT BETTER WAY TO MAKE A MILLION BUCKS?
TOO BAD YOU CROAKED, DOC! TOO BAD YOU CAN'T SEE ME LAND INTO THE FUTURE IN SOME SLOB'S BODY AND GET THE LOOT WHERE I HID IT!
NOW EVERYTHING'S SET! WEEKS OF WATCHING YOU PAID OFF, DOC! SO LONG, CRUMMY EARTH! GOOD TIMES... HERE I COME! HA, HA!!
TELL US! WHERE DID YOU HIDE THE GOLD THAT YOU STOLE FROM THE KING?
...NO! NO-O-OO!
ARRGHHHHH
BUT THE MAN SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THAT REINCARNATION WORKS BOTH WAYS -- INTO THE FUTURE... AND INTO THE PAST!!
THE END

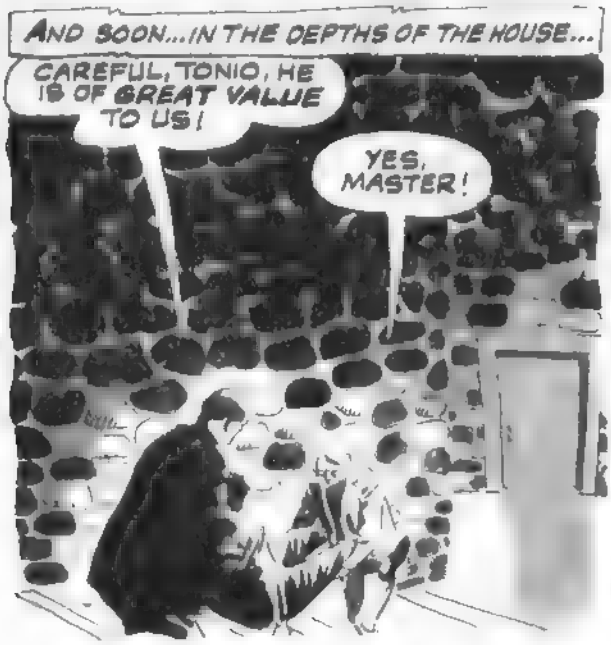
TO TAMPER WITH THE SECRETS OF LIFE IS TO INVITE THE COLD, CLAMMY HANDS OF DEATH ON YOUR SHOULDER...

THE MONSTER THAT BURNS

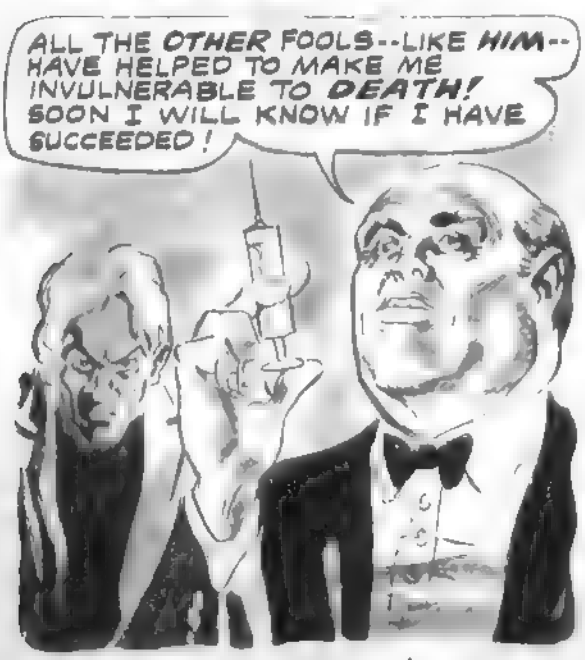
ON THE MUSTY, ANCIENT HOME OF FREDRICK BARCLEY, TWO MEN ARE SEATED AROUND THE DINNER TABLE ENGAGED IN THE PLEASANT TALK OF OLD FRIENDS...

...AND THAT IS MY INSATIABLE TASTE FOR--DEATH--

...ANOTHER'S DEATH!!
AARGH-H!


AND SOON...IN THE DEPTHS OF THE HOUSE...
CAREFUL, TONIO, HE IS OF GREAT VALUE TO US!
YES, MASTER!

ANOTHER FINE SPECIMEN! PERHAPS THE HORMONE EXTRACTED FROM HIS BODY, WILL GIVE ME THE SECRET OF ETERNAL LIFE I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR!


ALL THE OTHER FOOLS--LIKE HIM--HAVE HELPED TO MAKE ME INVULNERABLE TO DEATH! SOON I WILL KNOW IF I HAVE SUCCEEDED!

HAVING SERVED ITS TERRIBLE PURPOSE, THE BODY OF THE FORMER FRIEND IS THROWN INTO A BLAZING FURNACE...
TAKE CARE IT IS COMPLETELY DESTROYED! WE MUST LEAVE NO TRACE...
YES, MASTER!

BUT AS HIS MASTER LEAVES, A SINISTER SMILE PLAYS ABOUT THE SERVANT'S FACE...
YOU ARE THE FOOL, MASTER! THE HORMONE EXTRACT YOU ASKED ME TO DISCARD HAS BEEN PUT TO USE BY ME! WE SHALL SEE WHO WILL BE THE VICTOR!
TONIGHT, MY MASTER WILL BECOME LIKE THOSE MURDERED BY HIM! MERE DEAD FLESH FOR EXPERIMENT!
LATE THAT EVENING THE HIDEOUS SERVANT MOVES SILENTLY TOWARDS HIS MASTER'S ROOM, WHEN SUDDENLY...
WHO COULD THAT BE?
BRRNNGG
HELLO, TONIO!
MISTER STEVEN!
WHY, HELLO, STEVEN! I'M ALWAYS GLAD TO SEE MY FAVORITE NEPHEW... EVEN AT THIS UNEARTHLY HOUR!
I'M SORRY IF I WOKE YOU, UNCLE!
SEATED IN THE LIVING ROOM, THE OLD MAN'S THOUGHTS ARE NOT THOSE OF A LOVING UNCLE!
WHAT AN OPPORTUNE TIME FOR HIM TO CALL! HE MIGHT WELL BE MY LAST SPECIMEN!
AND WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING, UNCLE?

I'VE BEEN MAKING OUT MY WILL, STEVEN! OF COURSE YOU KNOW THAT YOU ARE MY MAIN BENEFICIARY!
I DO!
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT DEATH MIGHT BE A LONG WAY OFF... A VERY LONG WAY OFF!!
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
I AM A POOR MAN WHO LIKES EXPENSIVE THINGS, UNCLE...I SHOULD HATE HAVING TO WAIT ANY LONGER!
IN FACT, I DON'T INTEND TO WAIT.. AND SO, YOU MUST...
STEVEN! NO! DON'T!
WITH TERRIFYING SPEED, THE POKER COMES CRASHING DOWN!
...DIE!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY MASTER?
HE'S DEAD NOW, TONIO! SERVE ME IN HIS PLACE...AND I WILL SEE THAT YOU GET PART OF THE INHERITANCE!

AGAIN TWO FIGURES CARRY A LIFELESS BODY TO A FIERY DOOM!!
WE'RE RID OF HIM...THE INSANE OLD FOOL! I WONDER WHAT MAD DREAMS HE MUST HAVE HAD!
GOOD RIDDANCE!
THIS YOUNG DOG MUST NOT INTERFERE WITH MY PLAN! ONE MORE INJECTION FROM HIS BODY--AND I BECOME IMMORTAL!
SEVERAL HOURS LATER A GRUESOME LITTLE MAN ENTERS ON HIS DEADLY MISSION...
HE SHEDS BLOOD... AND NOW HE SLEEPS! HIS OWN BLOOD MUST FLOW...
...FROM THE SHARP EDGE OF STEEL!
YAH-H-H!
SOON MY LIFE WILL BE ETERNAL--LIKE THE GODS OF ANCIENT TIMES... AND I WILL BE THE ONLY...
SUDDENLY FROM THE RAGING HEART OF THE FURNACE APPEARS THE FLAMING RELIC OF WHAT WAS ONCE A HUMAN...
AAGGH-H!

YOU SEE...I HAVE SUCCEEDED IN SURVIVING THE HELLISH FIRE! I HAVE GAINED THE SECRET OF ETERNAL LIFE!
B-BUT THE FLAMES... THE FLAMES!
PERHAPS ONE MORE INJECTION -- AND THE FIRE OF THE FURNACE WOULD NOT HAVE SINGED ME! YOU MUST PAY FOR THAT!!
NO! AIIEEE!
HIS CLOTHES MADE A TORCH BY THE MADMAN WHO WAS ONCE HIS MASTER, THE SERVANT RUNS WILDLY FROM THE ROOM!
I CAN'T DIE!! I CAN'T...
..DIE... YARRRGH-H-H!
AND SO AMIDST THE ROARING FLAMES, ANIMAL SCREAMS OF AGONY BEAR WITNESS TO THE FACT THAT TO TAMPER WITH THE SECRETS OF LIFE IS TO BE REWARDED WITH THE HORROR OF DEATH!!
THE END..2

The Twisted Brain

ONLY ARTHUR DUNSTER KNEW THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF THE RELICS IN THE MUSEUM BASEMENT! AND HIS LIPS WERE SEALED...

FOR NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THE FIENDISH PLOT THE LONG DEAD CURIOS WERE HATCHING THERE! AND DUNSTER WAS **DOOMED!**

AND AFTERWARD, AS THE FEW VISITORS LEAVE...
WELL, DUNSTER, I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO CLOSE YOUR RELIC BOOTH! THE PEOPLE JUST DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EXHIBITIONS OF EVIL!
YES, THEY COME ONLY TO LAUGH!
I WOULDN'T BE UPSET ABOUT IT DUNSTER! YOU CAN PACK THESE CURIOS UP IN THE STORE ROOM!
YES--YES, MR DANE! I WILL PACK THEM AWAY AT ONCE!
THE DEJECTED CURATOR PUTS HIS BELOVED RELICS AWAY IN THE BASEMENT!
WHAT A PITY-- BRAVE EXPLORERS RISKED DEATH AND TORTURE TO UNEARTH YOU PIECES--AND NONE WILL BELIEVE THE HORROR THAT YOU HAVE WITNESSED!
SUDDENLY, THE DEATH MASK VIBRATES IN DUNSTER'S HANDS, A HOLLOW EERIE VOICE BOOMS FORTH--
DO--NOT FEAR... ARTHUR DUNSTER! VENGEANCE... SHALL BE OURS! SOON... THE WORLD... SHALL KNOW... OF THE EVIL POWER WE POSSESS!
ABRUPTLY, THE ROOM RINGS WITH A CHANT OF [illegible] UNHEARD BY HUMAN EARS BEFORE!
THOSE WHO BROUGHT US FORTH... SHALL BE... THE PROOF OF OUR EVIL!
WE HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR SACRED RESTING PLACES, WE SHALL STRIKE BACK!
THEN...
DO NOT FEAR US...
T-THEY'RE ALIVE! T-THEY'VE COME BACK TO LIFE... G-GREAT HEAVENS!
YOU ARE OUR FRIEND, DUNSTER!
G-GOOD GRIEF, DUNSTER... YOU LOOK FRIGHTFUL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN?
W-WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME? T-THEY'LL CALL ME MAD IF I TELL THEM WHAT I SAW AND HEARD!
NO NO, MR DANE! JUST HAD A TOUCH OF A TOOTHACHE! I'LL GO HOME AND REST!
23

POOR DUNSTER-- HE WORKED NIGHT AND DAY FOR YEARS TO PUT HIS COLLECTION OF HORROR TOGETHER! THE PUBLIC'S REACTION WAS QUITE A SHOCK TO HIM!
YES, PERHAPS A VACATION WOULD HELP!
THAT NIGHT, SLEEP ESCAPES ARTHUR DUNSTER AS THE VISIONS OF HORROR COME ALIVE IN HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND!
HEE, HEE! SOON VENGEANCE WILL BE OURS, ARTHUR DUNSTER! HO, HO!
NO, NO! DON'T TORMENT ME SO! PLEASE... GO AWAY!
MEANWHILE, KENNETH CRANDELL, EXPLORER, PREPARES FOR BED IN HIS MID-TOWN APARTMENT!
BETTER GET TO BED EARLY-- GOT TO GIVE THAT LECTURE AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB TOMORROW!
SUDDENLY, AS DARKNESS FILLS THE BED ROOM...
HELLO, KENNETH CRANDELL! WE ARE OLD FRIENDS... REMEMBER?
YIII EE
THE MASK-- THE AMAZON DEATH MASK! IT... CAN'T BE!
AH, BUT IT IS, CRANDELL! YOU REMOVED ME FROM THE DIM, DARK TOMB THAT WAS MY RESTING PLACE!
THE LEERING FACE OF EVIL MOVES CLOSER, CLOSER, SUDDENLY...
W-WHY DO YOU COME HERE? Y-YOU'RE ONLY A MASK! H-HOW DO YOU TALK!... MOVE?
HA HA HA
HA
HA
THEN, THE NECK THONGS TIGHTEN, CRANDELL GASPS FOR AIR AND...
HERE IS YOUR REWARD FOR DEFILING MY RESTING PLACE, CRANDELL! YOU MAY WEAR ME!
NO, NO! IT'S DEATH TO WEAR YOU!
GASP

AND NEXT MORNING, MUSEUM OFFICIALS ARE HASTILY SUMMONED BY POLICE...
I--I FOUND POOR MR. CRANDALL JUST LIKE THAT!
YOU SAY THIS DEATH MASK WAS AT THE MUSEUM! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR IT BEING HERE?
THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE EXPLANATION! IT WAS REMOVED FROM EXHIBITION FOR STORAGE YESTERDAY! MR. CRANDELL MUST HAVE TAKEN IT OUT... AND ACCIDENTLY KILLED HIMSELF WHILE TRYING IT ON!
HMM! THAT MAKES SENSE I GUESS! YOU'D THINK HE'D BE CAREFUL PLAYING WITH SUCH A FIENDISH THING!
BUT THAT AFTERNOON AT THE MUSEUM, ONE PERSON KNOWS THAT CRANDELL'S DEATH WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT!
YOU FIENDS! YOU'VE UNLEASHED YOUR EVIL UPON THE WORLD AGAIN! A-AND I HELPLESS TO STOP YOU!
DEATH MASK ACCIDENT
AND YOU...YOU MURDERER... YOU'VE WON YOUR POINT! MR DANE WANTS YOU ON DISPLAY UPSTAIRS BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE CURIOUS NOW! ONLY I KNOW IT WAS NO ACCIDENT!
LATER...
YES SIR!
THAT'S FINE, DUNSTER! AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR TREASURED RELICS IS GETTING A DISPLAY!
W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? MY HEAD-- I'M-- DIZZY--SHAKING ALL OVER! SHOULD I TELL MR. DANE? NO--NO, HE WOULD SURELY THINK ME MAD!
LATE THAT EVENING, TWO FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGISTS, PETER RANDOLF AND JOHN READE, MEET AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB DOWNTOWN!
HELLO, PETER! I GOT YOUR NOTE!
MY NOTE! BUT JOHN, I DIDN'T SEND A NOTE! YOU SENT ME ONE REQUESTING I SEE YOU HERE AT MIDNIGHT!
SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE BEWILDERED FRIENDS CAN CONTINUE...
SILENCE! YOU ARE BOTH MY GUESTS THIS EVENING!
G-GREAT GLORY! THE AZTEC DEVIL RULER!
AND CARRYING THE INFAMOUS MURDER MACE I UNEARTHED!

IN STUNNED HORROR THE TWO MEN RECOIL FROM THE CREATURE BEFORE THEM...
NOW I HAVE COME BACK TO LIFE TO SEEK VENGEANCE AGAINST YOU FOR DESECRATING MY TOMB!
IMPOSSIBLE! THE THING'S BEEN DEAD FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS!
THE CENTURIES OLD TERROR DESCENDS UPON THE PAIR! THE FLAILING MACE CUTS A SWARTH OF DEATH THROUGH THE AIR AND...
NOW, LET THE WORLD BELIEVE WE ARE INDEED THE SYMBOLS OF ALL THAT IS EVIL!
YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE OUR VENGEANCE, JOHN READE! AS SURELY AS THE SUN WILL RISE TOMORROW YOU WILL DIE BY THE MURDER MACE!
BUT THERE IS NO MERCY WITHIN THE LONG-DEAD MONSTER...
CRASH
THEN THE EYES OF THE FEARFUL DEATH RULER GLAZE OVER! WITH SLOW, MECHANICAL STEPS HE TREADS FROM THE SCENE OF HIS CARNAGE!
AFTERWARD, THE DAWN OPENS A DAY OF SHOCK AND HORROR AT THE MUSEUM!
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MR. DANE... THIS MACE WAS THE WEAPON THAT KILLED THE MEN! CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE HANDWRITING OF THOSE NOTES?
I--I SEE, THESE NOTES LURED THEM TO THE RENDEZVOUS OF MURDER!

SUDDENLY... MR. DANE... I'VE JUST READ THE NEWSPAPER! I... CAN'T KEEP MY HIDEOUS SECRET ANY LONGER! THE RELICS ARE KILLING THOSE MEN... THEY TOLD ME SO!
NO, NO! I FEARED YOU WOULD THINK ME CRAZY! THE RELICS -- THEY MURDERED TO PROVE THEIR EVIL!
GREAT HANNAH! THE POOR DEVIL'S MAD... HE'S GONE OUT OF HIS MIND!
NO, DUNSTER... THESE NOTES THAT LURED READ AND RANDOLF TO THEIR DEATH PROVE OTHERWISE! THEY ARE IN YOUR HANDWRITING, DUNSTER!
PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMMITTING YOUR OWN HORRIBLE DEEDS, DUNSTER! YOU'D BEST GO WITH THE OFFICERS!
M-MY MIND... YES, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED! THOSE DEVILISH THINGS... THEY'VE TWISTED MY BRAIN... MADE ME A MURDERER!
WILD WITH THE HORROR OF HIS DEEDS, THE CURATOR RUSHES THROUGH THE MUSEUM...
I'LL KILL THEM-- I'LL KILL THEM ALL FOR THEIR TREACHERY!
STOP, DUNSTER! STOP!
THEN, AS DUNSTER RUSHES INTO THE STORAGE ROOM...
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT'S HE DONE NOW!
ARRRRGHHH!
T-THE IRON MAIDEN... HE STUMBLED INTO HER!
UGH! WHAT A MISERABLE FATE!
AFTERWARD, WHEN THE POLICE SEARCHED THE ROOM THEY FOUND A DISGUISE THAT COULD BE USED TO MAKE HIMSELF TO LOOK LIKE ME! BUT THEY STILL WONDER HOW HE STUMBLED INTO IRON MAIDEN... LITTLE DO THEY KNOW!
HA HA HA!
The End

THE DEAD DEMONS
NIGHT, AND THE HIDEOUS DEMONS THAT LURK IN THE DARK CORNERS OF THE EARTH SLOWLY EMERGE TO MAKE THE R HOMES N THE MINDS OF EVIL MEN... THE DEAD AND THE LIVING MEET AT THE FATAL STROKE OF MIDNIGHT!
NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE! GO AWAY! AHH-H-H-H
YOUR DOOM APPROACHES, DOCTOR! YOU WILL JOIN US IN THE RIVER OF THE DEAD!
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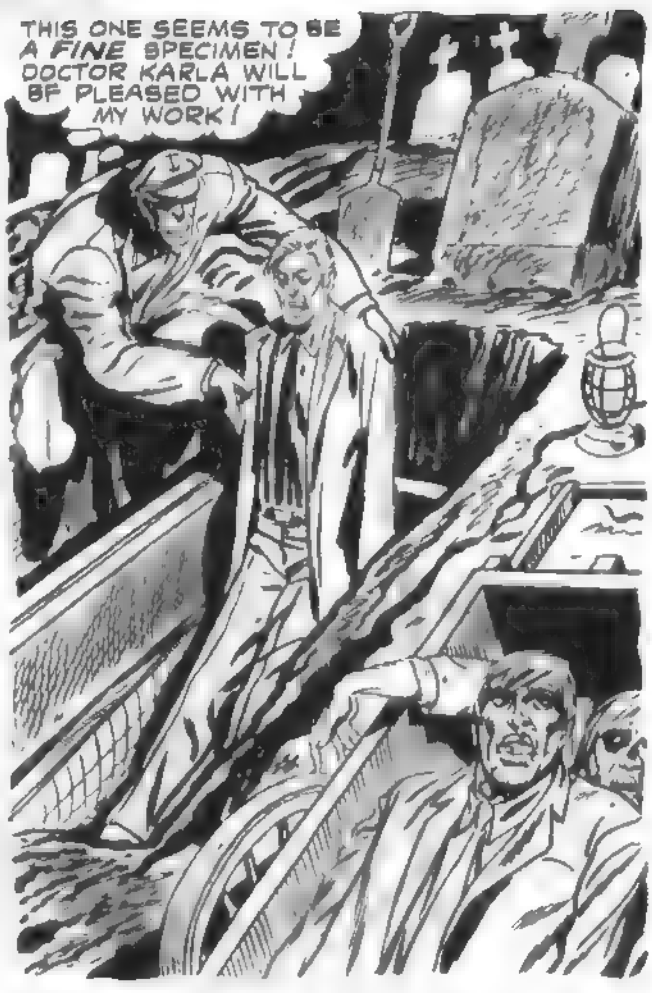
ON THE CASTLE OF DOCTOR KARLA, DEEP IN THE BLACK, BEATING HEART OF ASIA, A STRANGE BARGAIN IS COMPLETED...
..AND YOU WILL BRING ME MANY BODIES FROM THE GRAVEYARD ON YOUR FERRY, PETERS! I NEED THEM FOR MY EXPERIMENTS FOR MY CREATION OF A LIVING HUMAN BODY!
KEEP PAYING ME AND I'LL KEEP BRINGING THEM! THERE WON'T BE A CORPSE LEFT WHEN I'M DONE!


THIS ONE SEEMS TO BE A FINE SPECIMEN! DOCTOR KARLA WILL BE PLEASED WITH MY WORK!

THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH BODIES FOR A DOZEN EXPERIMENTS! HOW MANY DEAD SOULS ARE WANDERING TONIGHT UNABLE TO REST? WHAT IF THEY SHOULD SEEK REVENGE? WHAT IF--- BUT I MUSTN'T THINK OF THAT!!

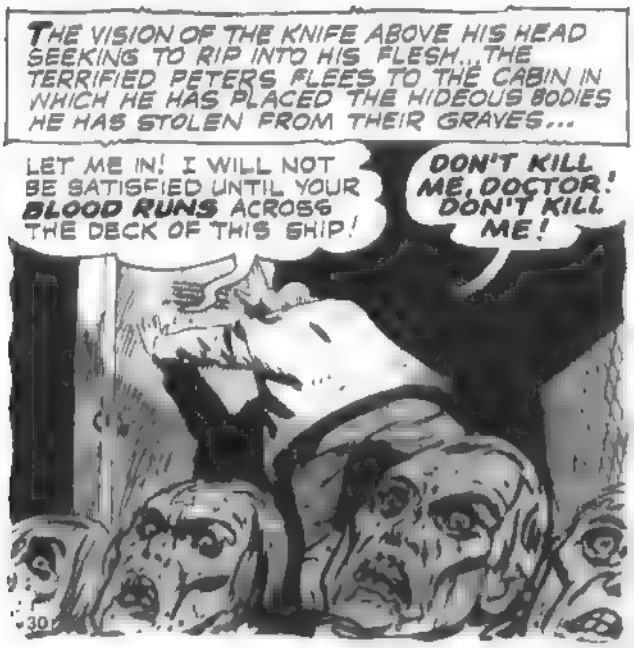
THERE IT IS! NOW I CAN COMPLETE MY MASTERPIECE!... MY LIVING, BREATHING MONSTER! THE WORLD MUST NEVER KNOW--- NOBODY--- BUT WHAT ABOUT PETERS? I FORGOT ABOUT HIM! HE MUST BE DESTROYED!

AS A DREADFUL CREATURE SPAWNED BY EVIL COMES TO LIFE, SO A DREADFUL PLAN IS FORMULATED IN AN EVIL MIND...
TONIGHT, THE ONE MAN WHO KNOWS OF YOUR EXISTENCE WILL DIE! I'LL SNEAK ABOARD HIS SHIP...

THERE'S A STRANGE CHILL IN THE AIR TONIGHT! THE STENCH OF DEATH IS EVERYWHERE! AND I SEEM TO HEAR VOICES!
RETURN US TO OUR GRAVES... YOU MUST RETURN US TO OUR GRAVES!

AS PETERS BEGAN TO DOCK, KARLA LEAPED ABOARD FROM A LAUNCH, AND...
DIE, FOOL! YOU ARE NO USE TO ME ANY LONGER!
WH--?

COME BACK, PETERS! YOU WILL NEVER ESCAPE FROM THIS BOAT!
NO! NO! HAVE I NOT SERVED YOU? HAVE MERCY!


THE VISION OF THE KNIFE ABOVE HIS HEAD SEEKING TO RIP INTO HIS FLESH...THE TERRIFIED PETERS FLEES TO THE CABIN IN WHICH HE HAS PLACED THE HIDEOUS BODIES HE HAS STOLEN FROM THEIR GRAVES...
LET ME IN! I WILL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL YOUR BLOOD RUNS ACROSS THE DECK OF THIS SHIP!
DON'T KILL ME, DOCTOR! DON'T KILL ME!

IF YOU KILL ME, THESE BODIES WILL HAVE ALL THEIR REVENGE ON ME FOR OPENING THEIR GRAVES! BUT REMEMBER... YOU GAVE ME THE ORDERS! YOU...
RAVE ON, FOOL, AND...

DIE!
AAAGH!

SINK INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE DARK RIVER UNTIL THE RIVER TURNS RED WITH YOUR BLOOD! YOU ARE AS DEAD AS THE BODIES YOU BROUGHT ME! HEH-HEH-HEH

AS THE DAYS PASS, THE UNHOLY CREATION BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE! A NIGHTMARE WORLD TAKES OVER THE HOUSE ABOVE THE RIVER...
AH, MY PRETTY ONE YOU ARE FORMING INTO MY MASTERPIECE AT LAST! SOON YOU WILL WALK AND BREATHE--AND EVEN SPEAK THE BODIES THAT COMPOSE YOU HAVE BEEN VERY SATISFACTORY!

THERE'S A FEELING OF DEATH TONIGHT! I CAN ALMOST HEAR TORMENTED SOULS CALLING.. I MUST GO BACK!
REVENGE FOR YOUR STOLEN BODIES! REVENGE!
YOU HAVE VIOLATED THE PACT OF DEATH!

WH--WHAT'S THAT?!

OUT OF THE BROODING BLACKNESS OF THE NIGHT FIGURES OF DOOM APPEAR TO PLAGUE THE MAN WHO HAS CAUSED THEIR SOULS TO WANDER...
WE HAVE COME TO CLAIM YOU FOR THE LAND OF THE DEAD! WE CANNOT REST UNTIL YOUR BODY HAS CRUMBLED TO DUST!

I MUST GET INSIDE!
THERE IS NO ESCAPE!

LEAVE ME ALONE! DON'T TOUCH ME! AH-H-H!

A SUDDEN AND ACCIDENTAL MOVING OF A SWITCH AND THE MONSTROUS CREATURE ST RS AND COMES TO ..FE ...A CREATURE WITHOUT MIND OR PURPOSE ... BUT ONLY THE TERRIBLE URGE TO DESTROY...
MY CREATION .S MOVING! IT LIVES!
UGGH! ERRGHHH

NO! DON'T! I GAVE YOU LIFE AND BREATH AND THE POWER TO MOVE! YOU CAN'T... AIEEE!

AS THE GREY DAWN BEGINS A STRANGE PROCESSION MOVES SLOWLY AND STEADILY TOWARDS THE EDGE OF DOOM AND THE WORLD OF DARKNESS...
FOLLOW ME, UNEARTHLY BEING... JOIN US WHERE ALL UNEARTHLY BEINGS LIVE N THE PAINFUL FIRE OF ENDLESS DAMNATION! COME!

WHERE AM I? N-NO! NO! PUT ME DOWN! AHHH!
MOVE CLOSER TO THE EDGE... CLOSER... CLOSER...
UGHH! EIGHHH! AGH-HH!

I CREATED YOU! I MADE YOU FROM THE CRUMBLING BODIES OF DEAD HUMANS! YOU CAN'T DESTROY ME AND YOURSELF! NO--NO--!

NOW YOUR VENGEANCE IS COMPLETE, SPIRITS OF THE DEAD! NOW YOU CAN REST AND MOLD TO DUST IN YOUR DEFILED GRAVES! HE WHO DISTURBED YOUR LONG SLEEP HAS PAID THE TOLL!

DEEP INTO THE DARK, BLOOD-STAINED RIVER, THE DESPOILERS OF THE DEAD MOVE TO THEIR OWN WATERY GRAVES...AS THE INKY SHROUD OF EVIL ENVELOPES THEM...
FOREVER!!
THE END

THE BLOODY GUILLOTINE

A MYSTIC POWER BEYOND THE GRAVE, CASTS THE GUILLOTINE'S GRISLY SHADOW ACROSS THE ATLANTIC TO TERRIFY INNOCENT LIVES THE HORRIBLE SEQUENCE STEMMED FROM BUSINESS RIVALRY BETWEEN AN AMERICAN IMPORTER AND A FRENCH EXPORTER WHEN THE FRENCHMAN'S PARTNER WAS FOUND MURDERED, THE AMERICAN SWORE FALSELY THAT HIS RIVAL WAS THE KILLER! BUT BEFORE THE GUILLOTINE'S DEADLY KNIFE SWISHED DOWN, ITS VICTIM SEALED A PACT FOR VENGEANCE

ROSEMARY AND CELIA FOWLER KNEW NOTHING ABOUT CURTIS FOWLER'S PLOT AGAINST HIS BUSINESS RIVAL! PAUL MICHAUD HAD BEEN CONVICTED ON FOWLER'S TESTIMONY AND SENTENCED TO DIE BY THE GUILLOTINE...
IN A FEW MOMENTS THE KNIFE WILL FALL... AND MICHAUD WILL BE OUT OF MY WAY FOREVER!
JUSTICE IS BLIND! I AM INNOCENT OF MURDERING MY PARTNER. THE MAN WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH BLACKENED ME WITH VICIOUS LIES!
GOD WILL PUNISH FOWLER FOR HIS PERJURY... AU REVOIR, PAUL!
NO, HENRI! AS MY BROTHER YOU MUST AVENGE THIS TERRIBLE INJUSTICE. NOT ONCE... BUT THRICE!
I SWEAR THAT YOU WILL CARRY OUT MY DYING WISH, HENRI!
ON MY HONOR PAUL! NOTHING ON EARTH SHALL PREVENT ME FROM KEEPING THIS PLEDGE
ALLONS!
AND MAY THE HEAVENLY FATHER HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL AMEN!
THE CROWD STOOD BREATHLESS AS THE HEAVY BLADE SWISHED AND THUDDED UPON THE BLOCK WITH GRIM FINALITY...
AT LAST IT'S OVER! I'LL JUMP INTO THE FIRST TAXI TO AVOID ANY SCENE WITH HIS BROTHER!

BY THE TIME THE SISTERS HAD DRESSED THEIR FATHER RETURNED UNEXPECTEDLY...
DAD! WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
TO THE WINE AUCTION! I'M DONE WITH ALL MY BUSINESS! PACK YOUR THINGS! WE'RE TAKING THE BOAT-TRAIN FOR LE HAVRE!
BUT FOWLER'S PREMONITION OF PERIL DID NOT DESERT HIM WHEN THE SHORES OF FRANCE SLIPPED BELOW THE HORIZON..
DAD! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? HELP! MAN OVERBOARD!
WHEN THE SHIP REACHED QUARANTINE IN NEW YORK HARBOR, A STEWARD BROUGHT FOWLER A RADIOGRAM FROM PARIS...
NO, NO! THEY CAN'T MAKE ME GO BACK!
A FOOTPAD HAS CONFESSED TO THE MURDER OF M. CHAUD'S PARTNER, AND I STAND ACCUSED OF PERJURY BY THE FRENCH SURETE!
THE SHIP'S MOVING AGAIN! HE'LL BE DROWNED!
DECKHANDS ABOARD ONE OF THE TUGS RECOVERED THE BODY... LATER IN THEIR STATEROOMS...
NO MAMSELLES! IT IS TOO TERRIBLE FOR YOU TO SEE!
THE PROPELLERS DREW HIM UNDER AND SEVERED HIS HEAD AS NEATLY AS IF IT HAD BEEN DONE BY A GUILLOTINE!
LESLIE... WHY DIDN'T DAD TELL US ABOUT THIS TRIAL AT WHICH HE TESTIFIED?
BECAUSE HE KNEW HE WAS DOING WRONG. WE MUSTN'T SPEAK OF THIS TO ANYONE, ROSEMARY!

RETURNING TO THEIR HOME ON LONG ISLAND, THE GIRLS ARRANGED A PRIVATE FUNERAL FOR THEIR FATHER...
I WONDER IF THEY KNOW THEIR FATHER FRAMED AN INNOCENT MAN?
OF COURSE! CURT S FOWLER DIDN'T KEEP ANY SECRETS FROM HIS DAUGHTERS!
BUT THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE NEIGHBORS DIDN'T KNOW THE HORRIFYING AFTERMATH THAT PLAGUED THE INNOCENT GIRLS...
HOW CAN I SLEEP? ALL I THINK OF IS THE GUILLOTINE!
DON'T TALK OF IT, ROSEMARY! LAST NIGHT I DREAMED I FOUND YOUR HEAD IN A BASKET!
NO PSYCHIATRIST CAN HELP US, CELIA!
I THINK WE SHOULD WRITE M. CHAUDS BROTHER!
A WEEK LATER IN PARIS...
FOWLER S DAUGHTERS CAN'T BRIBE ME! I DON'T WANT A SHARE OF THEIR IMPORT BUSINESS!
HENRI MICHAUD ARRIVED IN AMERICA THE FOLLOWING MONTH! NEITHER HIS KNIFE NOR HIS WOOD CARVINGS AROUSED SUSPICION OF THE CUSTOM AGENTS...
AND THAT NIGHT ROSEMARY WAS AWAKENED BY THE SOUNDS OF A FALLING GUILLOTINE BLADE THAT ENDED WITH A DULL BUT OMINOUS THUD!
CELIA! CELIA! OH, GOOD HEAVENS! THAT SHADOW ON MY WALL... IT'S REAL!
CELIA! I SAW THE SHADOW OF A GUILLOTINE ACROSS THAT WALL!
NOTHING'S THERE NOW!
THE POOR DARLING! I'M AFRAID SHE CAN'T STAND IT MUCH LONGER!

BUT WHEN CECILIA TURNED BACK TO HER OWN BEDROOM HER HEART FROZE AT THE SIGHT OF A GRISLY IMAGE!
HORRORS.. NO! I'M WIDE AWAKE, AND YET--OH, HEAVEN HELP US!
A HAND ON MY WINDOWSILL! I'LL SLAM THE WINDOW SHUT AND CALL THE POLICE!
SHE TRIPPED! THEIR REACTION TO THE GUILLOTINE'S SHADOW BETRAYS THEIR BURDEN OF GUILT! FOR SHARING THEIR FATHER'S SECRET, THEY SHALL LOSE THEIR HEADS!
PERHAPS THE PLOT AGAINST PAUL WAS HATCHED IN THIS FAIR HEAD! THERE WERE MANY THINGS PAUL DID NOT DIVULGE TO ME!
BUT AS HENRI BENT TO PERFORM THE GRISLY TASK A PHANTOM FIGURE LOOMS PROTECTIVELY OVER THE UNCONSCIOUS GIRL
NO, HENRI! IT'S NO LONGER MY WISH THAT YOU AVENGE MY DEATH FATE DROVE FOWLER TO FOLLOW ME INTO THE BEYOND!
PAUL! MY BROTHER'S GHOST!
FOWLER'S DAUGHTERS DID NOT KNOW OF HIS PLOT AGAINST ME
I--I FEEL DIZZY, PAUL! YOUR RETURN HAS BROUGHT A FRIGHTENING CHANGE IN ME!

WHY, WH--WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS WRONG? YOU LOOK SO FRIGHTENED!
I-I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS DOING! MY MIND WAS ENSLAVED BY THE DESIRE TO BEHEAD YOU!
WHO IS HE? WHAT BROUGHT HIM HERE?
I THINK HE'S PAUL M CHAJO'S BROTHER, AND HE CAME HERE TO MURDER US.
YES YES! THAT'S THE TRUTH!
WAIT! I WILL SHOW YOU THE MODEL GUILLOTINE BY WHICH I CAST THE SHADOW ON YOUR WALLS! YOU SEE THE KNIFE ON THE FLOOR!
WHY--THERE'S NO KNIFE HERE!
THE KNIFE IS GONE? HE TOOK IT! HE TOOK IT! HE TOOK THE GUILLOTINE ALSO! YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME NOW...I HAVE NO PROOF!
YOU'LL CALL ME CRAZY, BUT IT WAS THE GHOST OF PAUL, MY BROTHER WHO SPARED YOUR LIVES!
YOUR SINCERITY IS PROOF ENOUGH, HENRI!
SOON AFTER, THE LAST VESTIGE OF TERROR LEFT THE THREE INNOCENT VICTIMS, AND HENRI CONSENTED TO BECOMING PARIS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIRM THE GIRLS INHERITED!
BON VOYAGE HENRI!
I JUST SAW THE STRANGEST THING...THE FACE OF A MAN IN THE WATER...HIS HEAD WAS CUT OFF, BUT HE WAS SMILING!
BAH! AN OPTICAL ILLUSION! WATER OFTEN PLAYS SUCH TRICKS!
THE END

WHAT ARE **YOU** AFRAID OF? BECAUSE EACH ONE OF US FEARS SOME ONE THING MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD! POVERTY, DISGRACE, DEATH! OR EVEN FEAR ITSELF! BUT WHATEVER **YOU** FEAR, READER, COUNT YOURSELF LUCKY THAT YOU ARE NOT IN THE SHOES OF STEVE DOLAN, BECAUSE STEVE WAS AFRAID OF RATS! BIG GRAY RATS WITH LONG WHISKERS AND GLEAMING FANGS! ALL HIS LIFE THEY HAUNTED HIM, AND IN THE END— BUT WE'LL LET YOU FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF HOW STEVE FINISHED IN...

THE RAT RACE

STEVE WAS REARED IN SQUALOR AND FEAR! AS A CHILD HE ALWAYS KEPT A LARGE STONE BY HIS BED...

GO AWAY, YOU! I H-HATE YOU! ALL OF YOU! YOU SLIMY FILTHY RATS! I'LL K-KILL YOU!

THE RATS SENSED THE CHILD'S FEAR AND WERE BOLD...

M-MISSED

SQUEEEEKK—

EEEEEEKKKKK—

STEVE GREW UP, BUT THE FEAR OF RATS NEVER LEFT HIM! FINALLY HE GOT HIS SEAMAN'S PAPERS AND...
I'D LIKE TO SHIP ON, SIR! DO YOU HAVE MANY R-RATS ON BOARD?
RATS? ON THIS SHIP? OF COURSE NOT, LAD. SHE'S AS CLEAN AS A WHISTLE! SIGN WITH ME AND YOU'LL NEVER REGRET IT! YOU'LL SEE THE WHOLE WORLD!
BUT STEVE DOES REGRET IT...
RATS! THIS FILTHY RUST POT IS FULL OF THEM! THAT MATE LIED TO ME! GET AWAY, BLAST YOU! I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU!
LOOK AT THEM! THEY K-KNOW! THEY SENSE HOW FRIGHTENED I AM! IT'S ALMOST AS THOUGH THEY WERE LAUGHING AT ME!
TERRIFIED BY THE RATS, STEVE JUMPS SHIP AT A PORT IN INDIA...
I MIGHT BE STRANDED HERE FOR A WHILE, BUT ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN THOSE RATS! MAYBE LATER I CAN FIND ANOTHER SHIP — WITHOUT RATS!
FOR DAYS HE EXISTS AS BEST HE CAN! THEN ONE DAY ON THE FAR OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, HE SEES AN ODD-LOOKING TEMPLE...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE THE INSIDE OF THESE TEMPLES! DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYBODY AROUND, SO I'LL CHANCE IT! MIGHT EVEN FIND A PLACE TO SLEEP THESE COLD NIGHTS!
AND INSIDE...
HOLY SMOKE! JUST LOOK AT THOSE IDOLS! GOLD AND JEWELS ALL OVER THEM! THERE MUST BE A FORTUNE HERE, AND NOBODY GUARDING THEM! I'VE HEARD ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS, BUT I NEVER BELIEVED IT UNTIL NOW!
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LIKE SO MANY BEFORE HIM, STEVE FEELS ENVY AND GREED GNAWING AT HIM...
WHY NOT? WHY SHOULD THEY HAVE ALL THIS WHILE I'M STARVING? I COULD TAKE JUST A FEW OF THESE JEWELS, ENOUGH TO GET ME BACK TO THE STATES IN LUXURY, AND WHOEVER OWNS THIS PLACE WOULD NEVER MISS THEM!
AND SUCCUMBS...
BOY! A FEW OF THESE RUBIES AND EMERALDS AND I'LL BE FIXED FOR LIFE! MIGHT AS WELL TAKE ALL I CAN CARRY WHILE I'M AT IT! BUT I BETTER HURRY BEFORE SOME OF THE PRIESTS SHOW UP!
SUDDENLY, OUT OF NOWHERE, ROBED FIGURES SPRING AT HIM...
AAAHHHHHH— LEMME GO!
WE MUST TAKE HIM TO OUR MASTER! HE COMMITS SACRILEGE!
FOREIGN DEVIL! YOU DARE DEFILE OUR TEMPLE!
I SAY KILL HIM NOW!
STEVE IS TAKEN TO ANOTHER ROOM AND ANOTHER IDOL...
YOU ARE GUILTY OF A GREAT SIN, STRANGER! WHY SHOULD YOU NOT DIE?
YIIIII— THE IDOL CAN TALK! G-GOING TO HAVE ME KILLED!
PLEASE! I DIDN'T MEAN ANY HARM, HONEST! I'LL GIVE YOU BACK THE STUFF! ONLY DON'T— (GASP)— K-KILL ME!
IT IS NOT THE VALUE OF THE JEWELS THAT MATTERS, POOR FOOL! YOUR SIN IS GRAVER THAN THAT, MUCH GRAVER! YOU, AN INFIDEL, HAVE BEFOULED OUR TEMPLE!
DEATH IS TOO QUICK, TOO EASY FOR YOU! YOUR PUNISHMENT SHALL BE LONG AND PAINFUL, ACCORDING TO YOUR NATURE! AND MY ANCIENT WISDOM TELLS ME WHAT IT IS THAT YOU FEAR MOST! RATS!
AHHHEEEEE— NO! N-NOT THAT! DON'T EVEN MENTION RATS!
YES! KONGI, THE RAT GOD SHALL FOLLOW YOU FOR ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE! NEVER STOP RUNNING, FOR THEN HE WILL OVERTAKE AND DEVOUR YOU! THAT IS YOUR TERRIBLE PUNISHMENT! NOW GO!

STEVE IS RELEASED BY THE PRIESTS AND RUNS FOR HIS LIFE...
I—I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT STUFF, BUT I'M NOT TAKING ANY CHANCES! KONGI, THE RAT GOD! UGH! I'LL FIND A SHIP, ANY SHIP, AND GET OUT OF HERE TODAY!
BUT HE FINDS NO BERTH THAT DAY! WHEN IT GETS DARK, HE GOES TO A CHEAP FLOP-HOUSE...
ALL THOSE SHIPS IN THE HARBOR AND NOT A SINGLE BLASTED ONE OF THEM NEEDED A MAN! WELL, MAYBE TOMORROW! B-BUT I WISH I COULD FORGET ABOUT THAT IDOL AND THE CURSE! EVEN IF THERE AIN'T ANY SUCH THING! HMMM—WONDER HOW HE KNEW I HATE RATS SO MUCH?
LATER, IN THE DARKNESS, STEVE IS AWAKENED BY A WEIRD SOUND! HE LOOKS—AND STARTS TO SCREAM...
YAAAEEEEEE—A RAT! GAAAA—IT'S AFTER ME! THE C-CURSE! IT'S KONGI, THE RAT GOD!
STOP IT! YAAAAA—HELP! DON'T LET IT GET ME! PLEASE—PLEASE! SOMEBODY KILL IT!
WHAT AILS THE AMERICAN?
ALL FOREIGNERS ARE MAD!
HE SEES SOMETHING TERRIBLE—BUT WHAT?
LATER... I CAN'T YOU—(SOB)—SEE IT? IT'S AFTER ME, G-GOING TO KILL ME! PLEASE DO SOMETHING! SHOOT IT! I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF IT—AAAAAAAA—
YOU HAVE HAD TOO MUCH WINE, SIR! PERHAPS IF YOU WERE TO SLEEP FOR A TIME...
ONLY THEN DOES STEVE REALIZE THAT ONLY HE SEES THE RAT...
OWWWWW—COMING AFTER ME! AND THEY CAN'T SEE IT, THEY DON'T BELIEVE ME! AND THE PRIEST—(GROAN)—SAID IT WOULD FOLLOW ME FOR THE R-REST OF MY LIFE! YEEEE—I'LL GO C-CRAZY!

SOMEHOW STEVE FINDS HIMSELF AT THE TEMPLE AGAIN...
I'VE GOT TO SEE THAT IDOL, THE PRIESTS, BEG FOR MER I'LL MAKE TH KILL ME! AN THING, ANY- THING AT ALL IS B-BETTER THAN THE RAT! HELP—HELP!
HELP ME, FOR THE LOVE OF HEAVEN! THE RAT— AFTER ME! D-DON'T LET IT GET ME! NOT THAT, I BEG YOU! IF YOU WON'T HELP ME, THEN KILL ME! KILL ME NOW, THIS MINUTE! AHHHEEE— I'M GOING C-CRAZY!
YOU SUFFER MUCH, STRANGER! THERE IS PITY IN OUR HEARTS FOR YOU DESPITE YOUR SIN! BUT I CANNOT UNDO THE CURSE OF THE RAT GOD! HOWEVER, THERE IS A WAY OF KEEPING HIM AT A DISTANCE! GO AND MY PRIEST WILL SHOW YOU! HURRY!
MOMENTS LATER...
HURRY, MAN! THE RAT IS AFTER ME! THEY SAID YOU WOULD G-GIVE ME SOMETHING TO KEEP HIM AWAY!
YES! THIS PRAYER WHEEL! EACH TIME YOU SPIN IT YOU SAY A THOUSAND PRAYERS! KEEP SPINNING IT AND KONG! CANNOT HARM YOU!
SOON...
I DON'T SEE THE R-RAT NOW! MAYBE IT KNOWS ABOUT THE PRAYER WHEEL, KNOWS IT CAN'T HURT ME! M-MAYBE IT HAS GIVEN UP!
THEN HE LOOKS BEHIND HIM, AND A CHILL OF TERROR DARTS THROUGH HIM...
EEEEEYYAAAAAA— IT'S THE RAT! EEEEEAAAAAAA—
SQUEEE-RRRREEEE—
HE REMEMBERS JUST IN TIME AND SPINS THE PRAYER WHEEL...
IT W-WORKS! OH, THANK GOODNESS IT WORKS! THE RAT— F-FADING, GOING! AS LONG AS I SPIN THIS WHEEL, I'LL BE SAFE!

STEVE APPEALS TO THE AMERICAN CONSUL AND IS SENT HOME BY AIR...
THEY THINK I'M CRAZY, BUT LET THEM! AS LONG AS I KEEP SPINNING THIS THING, I CAN'T SEE THE RAT! AND I'M GOING TO SPIN IT THE REST OF MY LIFE!
AND BACK IN NEW YORK HE BECOMES A FAMILIAR SIGHT...
I'VE SEEN NUTS IN MY TIME, BUT THAT GUY BEATS THEM ALL!
I WONDER WHY HE SPINS THAT GADGET ALL THE TIME?
IF THEY ONLY KNEW! BUT I DON'T CARE—I HAVEN'T SEEN THE RAT GOD SINCE I'VE BEEN BACK IN THE STATES!
THEN ONE DAY THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS...
HEY! LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL!
MAYBE I LEFT THE RAT ON THE OTHER SIDE! I HOPE THAT..
GAAAAAA—
OKE OLA
HOURS LATER HE AWAKENS IN A STRANGE ROOM...
HUH! WHERE—WHAT HAPPENED? OH, I REMEMBER NOW! B-BUT WHERE IS MY PRAYER WHEEL? DON'T THEY KNOW I MUST HAVE THAT? NURSE! HELP, NURSE! QUICK!
SOMEONE COMING NOW, THANK GOODNESS! THEY MUST HAVE THE PRAYER WHEEL WITH MY OTHER THINGS!
COME IN, NURSE! I'VE GOT TO...
THERE IS ONLY TIME FOR ONE LAST SCREAM...
KONG!
EEEEEYYYAAAAAA—
the End 45

THERE IN THE GLOOMY RECESSES OF THE STRANGE CAVE AN EERIE LIGHT GLOWED, A LIGHT THAT WAS CENTURIES OLD AND AROUND IT HUDDLED DRIED BONES...SKELETONS CALLED BACK TO LIFE BY THE FANTASTIC NOTES OF THE STRANGE FLUTE! NOTHING HE COULD DO COULD KEEP PROFESSOR GRIMES FROM PLAYING THAT FLUTE, FOR WHO DARES TO RESIST...

THE OLD CRONES' VOODOO

A MIST SHROUDS MOORLANDS BEACH, AS THE THREE PROFESSORS, GRIMES, BURKE AND DUNCAN BEGIN THEIR SUMMER VACATION...

AS THE SUN BREAKS THROUGH THE FOG, GRIMES STROLLS THE DESERTED BEACH WITH THE HOTEL-KEEPER'S SMALL DOG WHEN SUDDENLY...
OOH!

FUNNY... IT WASN'T A STICK I TRIPPED OVER... IT'S A FLUTE! AND JUDGING FROM IT'S APPEARANCE IT'S ALMOST THREE HUNDRED YEARS OLD! CAN'T MAKE OUT THE INSCRIPTION... WONDER IF IT STILL PLAYS?

SHAKING THE SAND FROM IT, PROFESSOR GRIMES BLOWS ON THE FLUTE IN VAIN! HIS PRACTICED EAR CAN DETECT NO MUSICAL NOTES, BUT AS HE BLOWS, THE DOG CRINGES AND SCAMPERS OFF, HOWLING IN TERROR...
WELL, DOGS CAN HEAR WHAT WE HUMANS CAN'T! I IMAGINE HE'S HEARD SOME TERRIFYING NOTES FROM THIS STRANGE FLUTE!
AROOOO!

SITTING BY THE HILLSIDE, GRIMES PLAYS THE FLUTE AGAIN, SEEKING IN VAIN TO HEAR A SINGLE NOTE.. AND SUDDENLY...
THE ROCK SLAB.. IT'S CRACKING OPEN... I'VE HEARD OF MUSICAL NOTES THAT COULD SHATTER GLASS, WELL THE UNHEARD NOTES FROM THIS FLUTE SEEMS TO BREAK ROCK!

AGAIN THE PROFESSOR RAISES THE FLUTE TO HIS LIPS; THE CRACK W DENS, REVEALING A DARK, EERIE CAVE BEYOND!
I-IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE, BUT THE ROCK IS PARTING! MIGHT AS WELL GO IN AND SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

AS HE STEPS INTO THE CAVE, SUDDENLY THE UNHEARD FLUTE NOTES BECOME AUDIBLE AS A FANTASTIC WAIL, AS THE COLD COALS OF AN ANCIENT FIRE GLOW AND BONE-FILLED RAGS ABOUT IT STIR TO THE MUSIC'S RYTHYM
S-SKELETONS... AND THEY'RE MOVING!

BOOTED WITH FASCINATION, GRIMES PLAYS ON, AS THE SKELETON FIGURES BECOME CREATURES OF FLESH AND HAG-LIKE FACES...
WITCHES!

PLAY, MASTER FLUTESMAN! PLAY!
THE SABBOT DANCE THEY INTERRUPTED SHALL GO ON!

AS FEAR GRIPS HIS HEART, PROFESSOR GRIMES WANTS TO FLEE, BUT SOME MAD COMPULSION MAKES HIM STAY AND PLAY THE FLUTE!
FASTER, FASTER, SISTERS OF DISASTER! TURN AND TURN! THE DEVIL'S FIRES BURN!

WITH ALL HIS STRENGTH, HE FINALLY TEARS THE FLUTE FROM HIS TREMBLING LIPS...
P-PLAY! PLAY!
N-NO! IT'S A DREAM! AN APPARITION! YOU DON'T EXIST!

WE WILL LIVE UNTO ETERNITY AND YE SHALL PLAY FOR US FOREVER! THE WITCHES' SABBAT SHALL NEVER END!
NO! NO! I DON'T BELIEVE IN WITCHES!

BUT, THE BONY-FINGERED HAGS DRAG HIM FROM THE CAVE...
WE WILL SHOW YOU THE WITCHES POWER!
ON THE LIVING AND ON THE DEAD!
FIRST THE DEAD! TO THE CEMETERY!

THE WILD FLIGHT ENDS AT A GRAVEYARD! BUSY HANDS UNEARTH A COFFIN... A LIFELESS CORPSE LIES EXPOSED TO THE WITCHE'S INCANTATIONS...
POWDER FROM THE DEVIL'S FOOT! WOODBANE AND ARROWROOT! BRING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE! THUS COMMANDS SATAN'S WIFE!
W...WHO... SUMMONED... ME... FROM... BEYOND?
N-NO! BACK! CLOSE THE COFFIN!
YE HAVE WITNESSED OUR POWER OVER THE DEAD! NOW YE SHALL SEE OUR POWER OVER THE LIVING! THESE ARE NOT YOURS, ARE THEY?
N-NO! I BORROWED THEM FROM THE HOTEL PORTER! BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THEM?
AS IS DONE HERE... SO TO ITS OWNER SHALL APPEAR!
AIEEEE!
T-THAT SCREAM... IT CAME FROM THE HOTEL!
NOW MAYBE YE BELIEVE WITCHES EXIST... BUT IF YE TELL WHAT YE SAW... DEATH!
DROPPING THE FLUTE, GRIMES RACES ACROSS THE DUNES TO THE HOTEL...
W-WHAT HAPPENED? I HEARD A SCREAM!
THE MOST FANTASTIC THING I EVER SAW! WE WERE SPEAKING TO THE PORTER AND SUDDENLY HE FELT A STABBING PAIN IN HIS EYES... NOW HE'S COMPLETELY BLIND!

ALONE, GRIMES TELLS HIS COLLEAGUES OF HIS WEIRD EXPERIENCE...
BUT I TELL YOU, IT IS TRUE! I SAW THE WITCHES DANCE MYSELF!
BUT THE PLACE YOU DESCRIBED THE CAVE AS BEING LOCATED IS A MILE FROM WHERE THE LEGEND PUTS IT! WE'LL CHECK YOUR STORY OUT IN THE MORNING!
THE NEXT MORNING...
C-CAN'T PRY THE ROCK FROM THE HILLSIDE AND NOT A SCRATCH ON ITS SURFACE! GRIMES, YOU COULDN'T HAVE FOUND A CAVE BEHIND IT!
BUT I DID! IF WE COULD ONLY FIND THE FLUTE! THEN WE COULD OPEN THE ROCK AND ENTER THE WITCHES' CAVE!
ALL AFTERNOON THEY SEARCH FOR THE FLUTE... BUT IN VAIN...
COME ON BACK TO THE HOTEL WITH US, GRIMES! YOU CAN'T FIND THE FLUTE IN THE TWILIGHT... AND TO BE FRANK... I DON'T THINK THERE IS ANY SUCH FLUTE!
I'LL HUNT FOR IT UNTIL I CAN PROVE IT TO YOU!
AS THE SUN SINKS ACROSS THE BEACH, SUDDENLY SOMETHING STRIKES THE PROFESSOR'S FOOT...
THE FLUTE!
AGAIN HE FEELS THE URGE TO PLAY THE FLUTE... ITS UNHEARD NOTES SHATTER THE ROCK AS BEFORE, AND...
YE PLAYED US FOUL! YE TOLD OF US!
LET HIM PLAY! LET HIM PLAY FOREVER! THAT SHALL BE HIS PUNISHMENT!
HIS LIPS SEEM SEALED TO THE FLUTE, AS THE WEIRD MELODY ECHOES IN THE CAVE AND...
PLAY! PLAY FOREVER!
NO! THERE IS ONE WAY OUT OF THIS WITCHES' CAVE!-- I MUSTN'T FAIL!
CONTINUED ON THE BACK COVER

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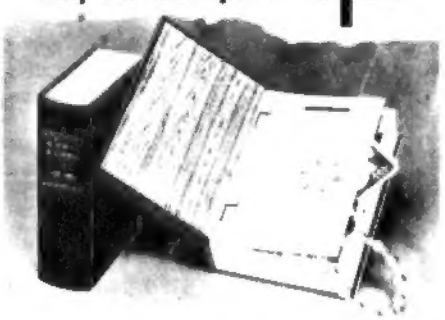

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SUMMONING ALL HIS POWER, GRIMES HURLS THE FLUTE OUT OF THE CAVE ENTRANCE...

THE ROCK BEGINS TO CLOSE...

THE NEXT DAY, THE WORRIED COMPANIONS SEARCH IN VAIN FOR GRIMES, BUT STUMBLE UPON THE FLUTE...

AS THE FLUTE LANDS IN THE OCEAN, THE SWIRLING WATERS WASH THE REVERSE INSCRIPTION UNTIL ITS ANCIENT WORDS CAN BE READ!

AND WHEN THE MUSIC STOPS IN THE AIRLESS CAVE, THE WITCHES WITHER, CRUMPLE AND FALL LIFELESS TO THE GROUND AS SINISTER SKELETONS, AS GRIMES SCRATCHES THE ROCK SLAB WITH FAILING STRENGTH...